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COMMENCEMENT
AT
ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE, ANNANDALE
NEW YORK

THE HOFFMAN LIBRARY LECTURES
NUMBER 2 A.D. 1894

THE WORLD'S LARGEST LIBRARIES

BY

GENL. JAMES GRANT WILSON, D.C.L.

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Harvard College Library

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This fund is $28,000, and of its income one quarter shall be spent for books and three quarters be used for the general purposes of the Library. — *Vote of the President and Fellows, May 28, 1892.*

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The Hoffman Library Lectures, No. 2

THE WORLD'S LARGEST LIBRARIES

A COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS DELIVERED AT
ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE, ANNANDALE,
N. Y., THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1894

BY

GEN'L JAMES GRANT WILSON, D.C.L.

SECOND EDITION

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COMMENCEMENT

AT

St. Stephen's College, Annandale, N. Y.

1894

THE accompanying address was delivered at the commencement of St. Stephen's College, Annandale, on the Hudson. St. Stephen's is a training college for the ministry. It is a classical college; no theology is taught there. It gives what is known as a *liberal* education, by which the graduate is prepared to enter on the study of any profession, or on any course of instruction for any industry in life. The thirty-fourth commencement took place on the 21st of June. There were three orations delivered by the candidates for the degree of B.A., and one by a candidate for a Di-

ploma, which enrolls him as an Alumnus of the College. In some colleges the Special Course is a scientific study. At Annandale it is a Course of classical study, which will enable the young men to enter on the study of theology in a divinity school.

The previous Sunday afternoon a Baccalaureate Sermon had been preached by the Warden of the College, which, after the fashion of a few of the Oxford Colleges, the presiding and executive officer is called.

On the evening previous to commencement, a sermon had been preached by the Rev. C. H. Malcom, D.D., before the Missionary Society of the College. It was a beautiful discourse on the missionary operations of the English Church in India.

The exercises of Commencement were opened by the singing of the Litany in the Chapel. After which the audience gathered under the shade of the old

trees of the Campus, where no breath of air was lost, and where the heat was so modified that everyone determined that this was the proper place for the commencement exercises.

After the literary exercises the Prizes were given. Four for excellence in Elocution, Psychology, Ethics, and Hellenistic Greek were given to R. W. Bowman. Four for Natural Philosophy and Astronomy, Logic, Latin, and Greek were given to R. E. Brestell. Two for Ethics and English Literature were presented to H. Quimby, and one for Mathematics was given to Joseph P. Gibson.

The degree of B.A. was conferred on R. W. Bowman, E. N. Curry, W. H. Davis, H. A. Handel, G. H. Kaltenbach, and R. H. Mize.

Diplomas were given to the Special-Course men, G. H. Bishop, M. Coen, B. B. Lovett, L. G. Morris, and H. Quimby.

M.A. *in course* was conferred on the Rev. E. B. Smith, B.A., F. J. Hopson, B.A., the Rev. W. F. Parsons, B.A., J. W. Gill, B.A., and the Rev. J. B. Van Fleet, B.A.; *honoris causa* on Rev. Wm. B. Hale, B.A.

B.D. on the Rev. N. R. Boss, M.A., and *honoris causa* on Rev. G. S. Bennitt, and *ad eundem* on the Rev. R. V. Burry, B.D., of Yale.

The degree of Ph.D., *honoris causa*, on the Rev. Smith DeLancey Townsend, M.A., of New York.

The degree of D.D. on the Rev. H. C. Houghton, B.A. and B.D.; on the Rev. Andrew Gray, of Boston; and on the Rev. C. C. Tiffany, D.D., Archdeacon of New York.

And D.C.L. on General James Grant Wilson, and on the Rev. Charles F. Hoffman, D.D., LL.D. The latter degree is gradus juris civilis doctoris; conferred on General Wilson for distinguished literary work; and on the latter for emi-

THE WORLD'S LARGEST LIBRARIES

BELIEVING that it would add zest to a tour of pleasure if some special purpose were combined with it, I decided during a proposed sojourn of two summers and a winter in the Old World, made a few years ago, to examine the most important public and private libraries of Europe. A letter provided by the President, requesting all representatives of the United States to aid me in the quest, contributed in several instances to render the pursuit of library data more successful than it would have been without such an endorsement. I saw not less than thirty-five millions of volumes, sufficient, if placed side by side, to extend from St. Stephen's to William and Mary College, Virginia, thence to Kenyon College, Ohio, and back again, by way of Albany, to Annandale! and in addition to the printed books, almost as many

more missals, manuscripts, maps, medals, engravings, and pamphlets. As it is not the good fortune of every American, and certainly not of the graduating class and other students now present, to have enjoyed such an opportunity, I have selected the great libraries of the world as the subject of this commencement address. The theme is one that might, and may possibly yet, fill a volume, and I shall therefore simply mention about a score of the most important collections of France, Great Britain, Russia, Germany, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States.

Time will not allow me to speak of the famous Alexandrian and other ancient libraries,* concerning which our knowledge rests on insufficient and unsatisfactory evidence, and so I will at once invite your attention to the National Library of France, unquestionably the largest and noblest collection of books in the world at the present, or at any previous period, and certainly

* Aulus Gellius asserts that Pisistratus, son of Hippocrates, founded in Athens, about 540 B.C., the first public library in the world.

the one most impossible to replace if destroyed by fire. If we should suppose that a person was permitted to live on this earth six thousand years, and to peruse a volume every day of his life, he could not read all the contents of this wonderful collection of more than 2,600,000 bound volumes, and about half that number of pamphlets. In a single apartment some three hundred feet in length, may be seen 700,000 bound volumes. This enormous collection, nearly double the number contained in the library of the British Museum, is known as the Bibliothèque Nationale, situated in the Rue de Richelieu, Paris. The building was formerly occupied by Cardinal Mazarin, and was first used for the National Library under the regency of the Duke of Orleans. Its history previous to that date may be given in a very few words.

Charles the Fifth caused many works to be copied and others to be translated; with these, and some that were presented to him, he formed a small library of less than one thousand volumes, which were deposited in a tower of the Louvre, called *la Tour de la Librairie*. Louis XI.

collected the books scattered through the various royal palaces, to which he added several other collections, and, printing having been recently invented, he purchased copies of all the books that were then published. His successor caused the library to be removed to Blois, and also added to it the libraries of the Sforza and Vincenti from Pavia, Petrarch's collection, and the cabinet of a Flemish gentleman. Three hundred years ago, Francis I. had the whole removed to Fontainebleau, and the catalogue, neatly written on parchment, which I examined, gives as the total of the collection less than two thousand volumes. Catherine de' Medici enriched the library with a number of medals and manuscripts, which she had brought from Florence, and Henry IV. transferred the collection to the Collége de Clermont, left unoccupied by the Jesuits, recently expelled from France. It was next removed to the convent of the Cordeliers, and under Louis XIII., when it consisted of 16,746 bound volumes, to a house in the Rue de la Harpe. His successor first opened the library to the public, and in 1666 Colbert pur-

chased two houses in the Rue Vivienne, to which the collection was removed. At the death of Louis XIV., in 1715, it contained 70,000 volumes, and a few years later the library was again transferred, for the eighth and last time, to its present spacious quarters, capable of containing at least 4,000,000 of bound books. Upon the suppression of the monasteries in 1789, all the books belonging to them were added to the National Library. An annual grant of 200,000 francs is made by the Government for the purchase and binding of books, engravings, antiquities, autographs, coins, etc., and by law, a copy of every book, engraving, map, and sheet of music, is required to be sent to the library,* which is divided into four departments: Printed books, maps, and geographical collections; manuscripts,

* Literary activity in France is very great. In 1893 there were issued 11,076 publications, which total does not represent the number of volumes or single parts, but the number of works, many of which were in several volumes. There probably appeared during the same period an equal number of engravings, maps, and pieces of music, making, exclusive of purchases, an annual addition, to which the library is legally entitled, of perhaps 25,000 publications.

genealogies, and autographs; medals, antique gems, and coins; and, fourth, engravings. These departments are under control of an *Administrateur-Général*, and each department is superintended by a conservator and assistant. There is a reading-room open to the public where any ordinary book, except records, can be obtained, and another noble hall, called *Salle Colbert*, much larger than the reading-room in the British Museum, which is reserved for students and professional *littérateurs*, to which a special permit or introduction is required. There are upward of 300 desks and seats, to each of which ink is supplied free, but readers are required to furnish their own pen and paper. Two French authors were pointed out to me who had been almost daily visitors for twenty years, and several professional copyists who had frequented the place for a period even longer. Under no circumstances is anyone allowed to pursue his literary labors in the alcoves, as at the Astor Library, but well-known authors can obtain books from the library. Foreigners can also secure this favor, but only by an of-

ficial application from their ambassador or representative.

The oldest manuscript book in the world is the "Papyrus Prisse,"* in the Bibliothèque Nationale, dated more than fifty-six centuries ago! Preserved by the climate of Egypt, which absolutely prevents decay, these fragile sheets of papyrus have remained substantially unchanged during that long period of time. Among the other 100,000 manuscripts in Greek, Latin, Arabic,

* It was presented to the library by M. Prisse, a Frenchman, who discovered the papyrus at Thebes. The tomb in which it was found contained the mummy of one of the Entews of the eleventh or first Theban dynasty. The date when the manuscript was written, cannot, therefore, have been later than 2500 B.C. But the original work goes further back. This much, at least, we learn from the text itself, which gives its least age; for it states that it was originally prepared by one Ptah-hotep, who lived in the reign of King Assa. This king was the last but one of the fifth dynasty, hence Ptah-hotep, who flourished in the reign of this Pharaoh and held the distinguished office of "Prefect," must have completed his work 3350 B.C. These precepts of Ptah-hotep, it is said, have been translated from the hieratic into French by M. Virey, and translated into English by Professor Osgood. The work comprises sixteen pages. Preceding the precepts in the manuscript are a few leaves of a still earlier work, written by one Kakimria, prefect to King Ken Feru of the third dynasty. Had this work been completed we should have been able to boast of a book older than the Pyramids, and dating from 3,760 years before Christ.

and other oriental languages, are Chinese MSS., dated as far back as 2,000 years B.C.; beautiful missals of the fifth century; Armenian, Arabic, Coptic, Ethiopian, and Persian MSS., all remarkable for their beauty; Charlemagne's Bible, written on parchment and illuminated with letters of gold, dated the year 781; the Prayer Books of St. Louis and Anne of Brittany, and one which belonged in succession to Charles V., Charles IX., and Henry III., and has their signatures; the MS. of Telemachus, in Fénélon's own hand; letters from Henry IV. to Gabrielle d'Estrées, and the autograph memoirs of Louis XIV., together with fine letters of all, or nearly all, the illustrious authors, poets, artists, statesmen, and soldiers of France of the last six centuries.

The collection of engravings consists of 1,600,000, contained in upward of 9,600 portfolios, issued from the fifteenth century to the present year, 1894. The portraits, to the number of 90,000, are divided in each country according to the rank or profession of the individuals, and are arranged in alphabetical or chronological order. The history of

France alone fills eighty-five portfolios up to 1789, and some sixty more have been added since that time, which, when completely classified, will, I was informed by the custodian, form a collection of about 150 volumes.

The *Salle des Globes* owes its name to two immense copper globes, nearly twelve feet in diameter, executed at Venice by Pietro Coronelli, by order of the Cardinal d'Estrées, who in 1683 presented them to Louis XIV., to whom they were dedicated. Another most interesting globe is one dated 1492, the very year of the discovery of our continent, which is represented by a broad expanse of water. The collection of maps, numbering nearly 300,000, civil, military, and marine, is exceedingly curious and complete.

In the cabinet of coins, medals, and antiques is to be seen the celebrated Zodiac of Denderah, and under it the porphyry bath in which Clovis was baptized, and the Apotheosis of Augustus, the largest cameo in the world, consisting of a sardonyx nearly twelve inches in height. Among the twenty-six figures represented are Augustus Cæsar,

Julius Cæsar, Drusus, Tiberius, Livia, Agrippina, Germanicus, and Caligula. Here also are to be seen all the antiques formerly possessed by the treasuries of Sainte Chapelle and the abbey of St. Denis; two large carna silver disks, the lesser one found in the Rhone near Avignon, called the Shield of Scipio, the other discovered in the Dauphiné and designated the Shield of Hannibal, and many thousand ancient coins, medals, bronzes, cameos, seals, rings, intaglios, abraxas, talismans, and oriental inscriptions. The smaller one of the two halls devoted to this department, called the *Salle de Luynes*, contains the magnificent collection presented to the National Library by the late Duc de Luynes, which is valued at half a million of dollars. It consists of a series of Greek and Etruscan vases adorned with paintings, Greek armor, and various utensils, bronze statuettes, and an exceedingly large collection of ancient and modern coins, medals, and signet rings.

Among the many works of art and articles of bric-à-brac possessed by the Bibliothèque Nationale, may be mentioned the original model in bronzed

plaster of the admirable statue of Voltaire, by Houdon, the copy of which, in white marble, I saw in the foyer of the Théâtre Français; also the heart of Voltaire, which was transferred in 1865, with great solemnity, from the Château de la Villette, near Pont St. Maxence; an interesting model of the Egyptian Pyramids with the surrounding country; superb specimens of ancient ornamental bookbinding in gold, silver, ivory, and inlaid coral and mosaic leather, including many charming Groliers; two models in porcelain of the celebrated Porcelain Tower of China; and a curious piece of sculpture, executed in 1721 by Titon du Tillet, called the "French Parnassus," its slopes covered with figures of the most illustrious writers, each occupying an elevation proportionate to his merit. There are also numerous fine marble busts and statues, and an ancient Egyptian bust of porphyry.

Among the many very interesting and valuable volumes in the library which I have had the privilege of examining, I must content myself with very brief mention of a few of the most important.

It possesses two fine copies of the Mazarin Bible, the first printed book. One is on vellum; the other, and the most valuable copy known, is on paper, and bears the date of 1456 in both volumes, that year having been placed there by Henry Cremer, vicar of the Church of St. Etienne, in Mayence, who illustrated this copy. Almost as interesting as this Mazarin Latin Bible is the first book printed in French. It is the History of Troy, printed at Cologne in 1464, and another copy of the same work translated into English by William Caxton, and, like the first mentioned, printed by him at Cologne some years later. The library also possesses many other early Caxtons and Wynkyn de Wordes, in fine condition and in superb bindings by the most celebrated French binders; as well as beautiful examples of nearly all the early German, Italian, and French printers. The collection of large, expensive, and rare, ancient and modern books is very large, and includes English no less than French works. Here may be seen such publications as Audubon's Birds of America; the earliest editions of Shakespeare and Milton; Boydell's

Shakespeare; Eliot's Indian Bible; the Description of the Papyrus of Nas-Kehm, published by the Prince of Wales; the twenty-nine volumes of Prince Lucien Bonaparte on Languages, and complete bound files of the London *Times*, *Gentleman's Magazine*, and many other American and English periodicals and papers.

An important report has recently been issued by the Bibliothèque Nationale. A committee of twenty persons, of whom nine were members of the Institute, four librarians, and three inspectors-general of libraries, has been considering the advisability and method of printing the catalogue of the largest library in the world, which contained at the end of last year 1,934,154 "numbers," forming at least 2,600,000 volumes. The report gives an interesting sketch of the history of the cataloguing of the library from the beginning, which is the not uncommon story of an insufficient personnel overwhelmed by great accessions, of neglect, bad judgment, increasing confusion, efforts to remedy the evil, attempts to do too much—apparently a continued struggle to conduct a great

library with a small staff. Finally, on the accession of M. Léopold Delisle, in 1875, was inaugurated the present system, which led to the completion of the inventory in December, 1893. Nothing now remains to be done but to add the printed matter, often very important, which is included among manuscripts in the manuscript department, together with a collection of books belonging to the library kept at present in the palace of Fontainebleau. Under date of June 3, 1894, M. Delisle writes: "Le catalogue des livres de la Bibliothèque Nationale n'est pas publié. Le gouvernement n'a pas encore pris les mesures nécessaires pour le faire imprimer."

Fourteen other libraries, mostly open to the public, and to all of which access can be obtained without difficulty, add nearly a million and a half volumes available to the Parisian student. The most notable provincial collections are those of Aix, Besançon, Bordeaux, Douai, Grenoble, Nantes, Rouen, and Troyes; Bordeaux numbering about 300,000 volumes and Douai more than 100,000, the total being in round numbers 1,500,-

000. Of these eight libraries I greatly admired that of Grenoble, in the south of France, with its 170,000 volumes most judiciously arranged.

The second most important collection of books in the world is contained in the British Museum, London. It now numbers nearly 1,650,000 bound volumes. The library originated in a bequest of Sir Hans Sloane, in accordance with which his extensive collection of objects of natural history, books, manuscripts, and works of art, was offered in 1753 to the Government for the sum of $100,000, about two-fifths of its original cost. The offer was accepted, and the collection, together with the Harleian and Cottonian Libraries, was arranged in Montagu House, which had been purchased for that purpose. The new institution, thenceforth called the British Museum, was opened in 1759. In 1823, the eastern wing of the present building was erected for the reception of the library of George III., which had been presented to the Museum by his son, George IV. The building, a hollow square, in the Ionic order of architecture, was not completed till 1847. Its

principal front is toward the south, facing Great Russell Street, and presenting an imposing façade of 370 feet in length. Ten years later a building was erected in the interior quadrangle, which it almost completely occupies. The reading-room is circular, and contains ample accommodation for 300 readers. It is constructed chiefly of iron, with brick arches between the main ribs. The dome is 106 feet in height, and its diameter is 140 feet, being second only to the Pantheon and St. Peter's of Rome, and St. Paul's of London. Equally remarkable has been the saving of space in fitting up the library. The shelves are formed of galvanized iron plates, edged with wainscot and covered with leather, and are supported on malleable-iron standards. With the exception of those placed against the external walls, the cases are all double, a lattice of iron work being arranged for the longitudinal separation of the books. Thus, throughout the whole interior of the new building, walls are dispensed with, the divisions being formed of the double ranges of books.

The original bequest of Sir Hans

Sloane consisted of 50,000 volumes. In 1757 George II. presented the library of printed books which had been collected by the kings of England since Henry VII., and which included the books of Cranmer and Casaubon. He also annexed the important privilege, now enjoyed also by the Bodleian of Oxford, Cambridge University, the Advocates Library of Edinburgh, and Trinity College, Dublin, of being supplied with a copy of every book published in Great Britain. The most important addition ever made to the library, with the single exception of the George III. collection, that cost more than a million of dollars, was the library bequeathed to the British Museum, in 1846, by Thomas Grenville. It consists of upward of 20,000 volumes, all in fine bindings and perfect condition, and was collected at an expense of nearly $300,000. They are the first books seen by the visitors to the National Library of England.

The noble reading-room, with its lofty and spacious dome, contains some sixty thousand volumes, one-third of the number being books of reference. There

I happen to have seen on various occasions many of England's great heirs of fame, such as Macaulay, Tennyson, Thackeray, and Thomas Carlyle, who was a frequent visitor, and also to the London Library, of which he was for several years the president. Of the dome-room, a recent writer says: "It is like a deity looking down with awful serenity on the tragi-comedy of the bookworm. Many a poor drudge finds warmth and comfort in its sanctuary; and when his body is dust, his soul may still flutter the leaves which he turned so often with a weary hand and aching head."

Among the thousands of almost priceless literary treasures which I have had the privilege of examining, may be mentioned the Codex Alexandrinus, a manuscript of the Bible in four quarto volumes, well written on vellum in uncial Greek during the fifth century, and the Basilicon Doron of James I., in his own handwriting. The Cotton manuscripts, rich in material referring to the history of Great Britain, include two originals of Magna Charta, registers of English monasteries, many letters of royal and

illustrious personages, and the Durham Book—a copy of the Latin Gospels—completed in the year 720. The Harleian manuscripts include many of the classics, among which is one of the earliest known copies of the Odyssey. The most important recent additions to this department have been the purchase of the Stowe manuscripts from Lord Ashburnham, and the gift, by the Earl of Chichester, of the Duke of Newcastle's papers in 430 volumes.

The collection of Bibles and parts of the Bible, in the British Museum, is believed to be the most valuable, but not the largest, in the world, being surpassed in editions by Stuttgard. It numbers about 7,200, and includes two examples of the Mazarin, the first book printed with movable type, and the Eliot Indian Bible, the earliest printed in this country. On one memorable occasion, I examined many of the rare Bibles in company with Bishop Brooks, who accompanied me to the Museum to see the Shapira manuscript of the Scriptures, which, a few months later, was discovered to be an exceedingly well-conceived and well-executed forg-

ery.* Of Shakespeariana, their collection is unrivalled, although the Lenox Library, of New York, possesses a larger number of the first four folio editions of Shakespeare. There may be seen his own copy of Florio's translation of Montaigne, containing his autograph, and from which he drew much material for his immortal writings. There may also be seen the largest collection known of Caxton imprints, and many excellent examples of the work of Wynken de Worde. I have seen a single octavo volume printed by William Caxton, the earliest English printer, sold for $4,000, among the world's twenty-five highest-priced books. But few libraries in the United States equal, either in number or value, the American works in the Museum collection. With the single exception of the Imperial Library of Russia, its collection of Slavonic literature is the

* "It is quite possible," writes Dr. Garnett, under date of June 4, 1894, "that the Museum collection of Bibles may be the largest in the world. Many years ago, however, this honor was said to belong to the library at Stuttgard, and I would not positively affirm that the Museum has overtaken it. The catalogue of our complete Bibles has been published separately. There is not a single Hebrew Bible in it, for such Bibles, as you are aware, contain only the Old Testament."

largest in the world. Indeed, in cosmopolitan interest the British Museum is without a rival, possessing as it does the best Hungarian collection out of that country, the most complete Dutch library out of the Netherlands, and in short, the best library in any language of Europe, out of the country in which the language is spoken. The Hebrew books number over 12,000, the Chinese nearly 27,000, and the printed books in other oriental languages about 15,000 volumes. Nearly 2,000 newspapers published in Great Britain alone, are annually collected, bound, and placed on their shelves. Under the English copyright law, there was received during the year 1893 upward of twenty thousand volumes, pamphlets, maps, and engravings. The collection of manuscripts is the largest in the world, ranging from the second century before Christ down to our day. Of course, the term manuscript does not apply to documents, of which I have seen fifteen millions under one roof in Venice. They are contained in an ancient monastery, and are the archives of that ancient city, complete for more than a thousand years! Alto-

gether there are over 103,000 MSS. in the Museum collection, including about 45,000 charters, rolls, and manuscript maps. Of printed maps, plans, charts, and topographical drawings, there are also about 100,000.

A printed catalogue was begun in 1881. It is issued in parts, and it is expected by Dr. Richard Garnett, the chief librarian, that it will be completed before the close of the century.* The binding is done upon the premises, and the sum expended each year for that purpose is $44,000. The average sum annually spent upon the purchase of books, is about $50,000, and for manuscripts $15,000. Special grants, in addition to the above amounts, are not infrequently made, with a view of acquiring literary treasures of exceptional value and cost. Valuable real estate has very recently been acquired by the British Museum as well as the Bibliothèque Nationale, with a view to the immediate removal of the adjoining

* Dr. Garnett writes from the British Museum, under date of June 4, 1894: "We have always looked forward to finishing the printing of the catalogue together with the century, but now hope that it may be completed even sooner—perhaps by 1898."

buildings, thus obtaining additional security against fire.

The Bodleian Library, of Oxford, was opened in 1602, with 2,000 volumes, by Sir Thomas Bodley. Eight years later, he obtained a grant for a copy of any book printed in the country, a privilege which the library continues to enjoy. The additions soon surpassed its capacity, and by his will he left property to the University for the maintenance and increase of the library. His noble example found many worthy imitators, including Archbishop Laud, Sir Kenelm Digby, and Lord Fairfax. The collection now numbers 530,000 volumes and 30,000 manuscripts, but the mere numbers convey a very inadequate idea of its character and value. In the department of oriental manuscripts it is believed to be superior to any other library in Europe, and it is exceedingly rich in other manuscript treasures.

The University Library of Cambridge dates from the early part of the fifteenth century. Two early catalogues, dated respectively 1425 and 1473, may still be seen there. Its first great benefactor was Thomas Scott, Archbishop of York,

who erected the building in which the library continued until 1725. Ten years earlier, George I. presented the collection of Bishop Moore, consisting of more than 30,000 books and manuscripts, and later several bequests were made, so that the library now has an income of about $23,000 per annum, and is entitled to all new publications under the copyright acts. The numbers cannot be accurately stated, as no recent catalogue exists, but the number of volumes is variously estimated at from four to five hundred thousand volumes. The Advocates Library, in Edinburgh, contains 325,000, and the library of Trinity College, Dublin, about 225,000. Throughout Great Britain, there are only thirteen libraries exceeding 100,000 each. There are several private collections containing about 50,000, and a considerable number possessing over 20,000 each. Lambeth Palace contains a very valuable library of 45,000 volumes and MSS., while Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's, and all the principal English cathedrals possess libraries varying from ten to twenty thousand volumes and manuscripts. The cham-

ber in the old cloisters in which the library of the dean and chapter of Westminster is preserved, is doubtless familiar to many present from the delightful description by Washington Irving in his "Sketch Book." The largest of the college libraries at Oxford and Cambridge, is that of Trinity, contained in a magnificent hall built by Sir Christopher Wren, where may be seen nearly 100,000 books and MSS. Magdalene College, also of Cambridge, possesses the curious collection of dear old Samuel Pepys, prince of diarists, bequeathed by him to the college. The books are still in Pepys' own cases, and remain, on pain of forfeiture, in precisely the order in which he placed them almost two centuries ago! Many of the books, broadsides, and engraved portraits are absolutely unique and attracted the attention of Macaulay, who spent several weeks in extracting important data for his "History of England." *

* The fruits of many a long hour passed among the Pepysian bookcases, the manuscripts at Althorp, and the archives of the French War Office were garnered [by Macaulay] into a multitude of pocketbooks of every possible shape and color. Of these a dozen still remain, ready to the hands of any among Macaulay's remote heirs who

Third among the world's great libraries, is that of St. Petersburg, possessing as it does about 1,200,000 volumes, and not less than 26,000 MSS. The Imperial Library of Russia was established by Peter the Great in 1714. Its growth was slow until 1795, when by the acquisition of the celebrated Zaluski collection, it suddenly attained a place in the front rank of European libraries. Count Zaluski, a native of Poland, collected at his own cost, during forty-three years, 200,000 volumes, which were increased by his brother Andrew, Bishop of Cracow. At his death the books passed to the Jesuit College of Warsaw. On the suppression of that order the collection was taken in charge by the Commission of Education, and finally, in 1795, it was transferred as a trophy of war to St. Petersburg by Prince Italinski, better known as Field Marshal Suwarrow, the most illustrious soldier ever born on Russian soil. The Zaluski library then consisted of 260,000 volumes and 10,000 MSS.

may be tempted to commit the posthumous treachery of publishing the commonplace book of a great writer.—*Trevelyan's Life of Macaulay.*

During the present century, through the liberality of the reigning family and other persons, as well as by the operation of the law of 1810, whereby two copies of every Russian publication must be contributed, the Imperial Library has attained its present proud position as second only to the National Libraries of France and Great Britain. The glory of its manuscripts is the celebrated Codex Sinaiticus of the Greek Bible, brought from the Convent of St. Catharine, on Mount Sinai, by Professor Tischendorf, in 1859.

The second largest library in Russia is at Moscow. It is known as the Public Museum, and numbers 350,000. The department of history is particularly strong, and Russian early printed books are well represented. Many valuable Sclavonic codices and ancient historical documents are included among its 6,000 manuscripts. The University of Moscow possesses 180,000 volumes, and the Universities of Dorpat, Helsingfors, Kieff, and St. Petersburg, have each more than 100,000 volumes, in addition to manuscripts, some being of great antiquity and value.

To Germany belongs the honor of possessing the fourth of the world's largest libraries, and nearly five million more books than France or Great Britain. Berlin alone has over seventy libraries, including the Royal with 850,000 volumes. Germany is emphatically the home of large libraries, her lack of political unity and consequent multiplicity of capitals, having given her a great number of state libraries, and her numerous universities have contributed to the formation of important collections.* The Royal Library was founded by the Great Elector Frederick William, and opened as a public library in 1661. Eight years later it became, by law, entitled to a copy of every book published within the royal territories, a

* Some interesting statistics regarding the comparative number of universities in the different countries of Europe are given in an article in the Nuova Antologia, March 15. The principal results in tabulated form are as follows:

Country.	University.	Population for each University.
Great Britain	7	4,143,002
Austria-Hungary	11	3,759,888
France	15	2,556,138
Germany	21	2,471,423
Spain	10	1,756,563
Italy	21	1,436,114

privilege which it has enjoyed for more than two centuries. The library has received many valuable accessions by purchase and bequest. About $25,000 per annum is expended in the binding and the acquisition of books. The catalogues are in manuscript, and include a general alphabetical author-catalogue, and a systematic author-catalogue, both in a convenient form. The conditions as to the use of books are, as in most German libraries, exceedingly liberal. They are taken out by officials, including those holding educational offices in the university and elsewhere, and, by guarantee, to almost any person who can procure a recommendation from well-known citizens.

The Royal Library of Munich is the second largest in Germany, containing 540,000 books and 400,000 pamphlets. Based on the fallacious system of enumerating each thesis and tract as a separate book, this library long claimed to be—and the claim was generally accepted—the largest in the German Empire. It was founded by Duke Albrecht V., of Bavaria, in the middle of the sixteenth century. He made many pur-

chases in Italy, and incorporated several large private collections, notably those of the Nuremberg physician and historian Schedel, of Wilmannstadt, and Fugger. The Royal Library is especially rich in incunabula, and occupies the finest library building in Europe. It expends about $30,000 per annum. Next in importance is the Royal Library of Stuttgard, with its 500,000 volumes, including what is believed to be the largest collection of Bibles in the world, numbering 7,200, precisely the same number as the Bibles and parts of the Bible possessed by the British Museum. The Stuttgard collection includes fine copies of the Eliot Indian Bible of 1663, and also of 1685, the first printed in the New World, of the Saur German Bible, the second printed in this country in 1743, and of the Aitken Bible issued in 1782, being the earliest edition in English of the Scriptures published in the United States. The borrowing of books for home use is open to all citizens whose personal circumstances offer the necessary guarantees for their safety. It may be added that what is practised in this respect at Stuttgard, is also true of many

other German libraries, and so far as I could learn, with very little loss. The Royal Public Library of Dresden, numbering about 400,000 volumes, was founded in the sixteenth century. Among its most valuable acquisitions have been the library of Count Bünau in 1764, and the manuscripts of Frederick Adolph Ebert. Special attention is given to the departments of history and literature, the latter including the writings of Allibone, Cooper, Emerson, Irving, Prescott, Wheaton, and many other American authors. The valuable MSS. number 6,500 volumes.

Libraries of varying extent and importance are attached to all the twenty-one universities of Germany, most of them being as ancient as the universities themselves. The oldest is that of Heidelberg, which in its earlier form dates from 1386. In 1608 it had become so important that Scaliger, the French philologist, wrote of it, "Locupletior est et meliorum librorum quam Vaticana." In 1623 the collection was carried to Rome as a present to the Pope, but some of the books were ultimately restored. The later library was first

formed in 1703, and now numbers about 400,000, including many extremely valuable manuscripts. The library of Göttingen University owes much to the illustrious Heyne, son of a poor weaver. It numbers 450,000 volumes, and is among the most complete of the German collections. The library of Leipsic University dates from 1409, although it was not properly organized until more than a century later. It contains 504,000 volumes and MSS. The Strasburg University Library, destroyed during the siege of 1870, has, strange to say, in twenty-four years accumulated the largest university collection of books in existence, numbering 645,000, and beating the world's record for rapidity in accumulating such a great collection. All the other seventeen German universities of Berlin, Bonn, Breslau, Halle, etc., possess libraries varying in number from 100,000 to 300,000 volumes. It may be added that some of the town libraries were among the earliest established in Germany after the revival of learning. The most ancient is perhaps that of Ratisbon, founded not later than 1640; but since it ceased to be an imperial city

it has been compelled to part with many of its literary treasures to the Royal Library of Munich.

Fifth in rank among the world's largest collections is the Library of Congress, with its 680,000 volumes, and the grandest building ever erected for a similar purpose. It is fireproof, and capable of containing a collection of 5,000,000 of bound books. For the United States can also be claimed the glory of possessing in its public libraries more volumes than are contained in all the collections of the four countries already alluded to in this address, viz., France, Great Britain, Russia, and Germany. The Congressional Library, or as it was called in its first general catalogue, the Library of the United States, was established in 1800, when the seat of government was removed from Philadelphia to Washington. The Capitol and library having been burned in 1814 by the British army,* Congress purchased Jefferson's

* Chaplain-General George R. Gleig, the well-known writer, who was the last survivor among the commissioned officers of the army engaged in the campaign against Washington, being at that time a line officer, more than once said to your speaker that the destruction of the Library of Congress by their troops was an inexcusable outrage. All present will doubtless agree with the chaplain.

collection of 7,000 volumes as the basis of a new library, which was gradually increased until 1851, when it numbered 55,000 volumes, and was again burned, only some 20,000 volumes being saved. The collection now numbers over 680,000 volumes, besides 225,000 pamphlets, and will soon be removed to the magnificent marble building now nearly completed, at a cost of six millions of dollars.* The Library of Congress is entitled, by the Copyright Law, to two copies of every publication issued in the United States, and will thus in time possess an approximately complete representation of the entire product of the American press.

Second only to the National Collection, stands the Public Library of Boston, founded in 1848, and now numbering 597,152 volumes. Included in this collection is George Ticknor's Spanish library of more than 6,000, and the Bar-

* The site selected is the most eligible in Washington, being elevated, dry, and level, and separated from the eastern front of the Capitol only by a small park. The exterior is wholly of white granite with four corner pavilions slightly projected, to relieve the monotony of the long façade. In the interior the central idea, as in the British Museum, is the domed rotunda reading-room, which is octagonal in form, capable of seating more than three hundred scholars.

ton Shakespeariana, numbering 13,775, probably not excelled, if equalled, by any similar collection except that of the British Museum.* This is, it may safely be asserted, the most useful of American libraries, lending its books free of charge to all respectable citizens, white and colored alike. Its very admirable example has been widely followed, not only in Massachusetts, but in other Northern States. Baltimore, Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, have each rapidly increasing free-lending libraries, supported, like that of Boston, by funds derived from municipal taxation, or by private benefactors. Such an institution will, it is expected, soon be established in New York with the $2,000,000 received for that purpose from the estate of Samuel J. Tilden. Among other public libraries founded by individuals are the Astor and Lenox of New York, the Newberry and Crerar libraries of Chicago, the Peabody Institute and Enoch Pratt Free Library of

* The most valuable work in the Boston Public Library is believed to be Henri Estienne's edition of Plato, Paris, 1578. It is in three folios, finely bound, and very well preserved.

Baltimore, and the Watkinson Reference Library of Hartford. It was in allusion to these gifts and those of other citizens, who have given millions for establishing institutions of learning throughout the land, that led Mr. Gladstone to say to your speaker: "If I were an American, I should feel proud of such men, who do for their country what only governments are generally expected to perform in Europe."

The State libraries of the country are already, in many instances, of considerable extent and value. That of New York numbers 150,000 volumes, and is free to all. In the other States and Territories libraries have been collected at the seat of government for legislative purposes, which are open to public use and reference. The libraries of the country numbering 1,000 volumes and upward, now include about 4,000, aggregating 38,000,000.* This includes the

* The Commissioner of Education, under date of Washington, June 12, 1894, writes: "In reply to your note I would say that I think the number of volumes, in round numbers, in public libraries in the United States is nearly or quite 38,000,000. Two and one-half years of the time since returns were made for my report were flourishing years for the increase of books in libraries. This ought to

school district library system, originated by New York in 1838, and since adopted by many other States, the books collected being paid for by a certain proportion of the school taxation fund of the respective States.

The first collection of books made in the United States was in 1638, when the library of Harvard College was founded at Cambridge, Mass., and has steadily increased until it now numbers 400,000 volumes.* Yale College Library was founded in 1700, and possesses a valuable collection of 235,000, while Columbia has 165,000, Cornell, 150,000, and Princeton follows with 106,000. The Mercantile and Astor Libraries of New York, in their latest reports, give 243,083 and 252,317, respectively, as the number of volumes in their possession on January 1, 1894; while the Lenox Library, which probably exceeds both in value, reports at the same date the

give, at the rate of eight per cent. increase per annum, one-fifth more volumes at present than there were when the returns were last called for."

* The Philadelphia Library Company, founded about a century later, is the mother of all North American subscription libraries, the second being the New York Society Library, established in 1754.

much smaller number of 83,331 volumes. Two of these recently acquired cost, one $11,000,* and the other $7,500!

Eighth among the world's largest libraries — Strasburg possessing the sixth, and Boston the seventh—is the Imperial of Vienna, with 570,000 volumes, of which about 20,000 are MSS. It was founded in 1440, by Frederick III. Succeeding emperors made liberal additions, including a large portion of the famous collection of Corvinus, King of Hungary. Since 1808, the library has been entitled to a copy of every book issued in the empire. The principal library apartment is among the most magnificent halls in Europe. Admission to the comfortable reading-room is free to all, and books are also lent under certain liberal conditions. Buda-Pesth has the second largest collection in the empire, numbering 463,000. Its Hungarian books and manuscripts surpass those to be found in any other European library.

* Life of Christ in the Words of the Four Evangelists with full-page paintings by Giulio Clovio, a Carlovingian manuscript on vellum, written in gold on purple and gold on white ground, about A.D. 870.

Next in rank, is the collection of the University of Vienna, founded by Maria Theresa, and now numbering 418,000 volumes. Among the hundred or more monastic libraries of Austria, varying from 1,000 to as many as 80,000 volumes, the most ancient is to be seen at Salzburg, in the Monastery of St. Peter, established by St. Rupert in the sixth century. Of its 60,000, it is estimated, that at least one-third are incunabula, or fifteenth century publications.

Next in order among the national libraries of the Old World is the Royal collection of Copenhagen, with 500,000 volumes, being the largest of Scandinavian libraries. It was founded in the sixteenth century, and is particularly strong in Icelandic literature. Among its many valuable MSS. is the collection of Tycho Brahe, the Danish astronomer. In 1793, the library was opened to the public, and has since remained under state control. Two copies of every book published in Denmark must be deposited in the Royal Library, which is in Christiansborg Castle. Next in rank is the Royal Library of Sweden, with 316,000 volumes. In some respects

this Stockholm institution surpasses any that I saw in Europe. It stands near the centre of a beautiful park, is perfectly fire-proof, and in its management has adopted many modern methods. In its reading-room, separate desks are supplied to students with lock and key, in which they can keep a dozen or more volumes for months, if necessary, instead of losing time by returning them daily, as is required in all other libraries with which I am acquainted, either at home or abroad. Among its many treasures, this Swedish library possesses the superb Codex Aureus of the sixth or seventh century, with its most interesting Anglo-Saxon inscription. The present building was completed in 1882, and I take pleasure in commending it as a model public library. The largest collection of books in Norway belongs to the University of Christiania. It numbers about 312,000, while the University of Upsala, founded by Gustavus Adolphus, possesses 286,000 volumes. The gem of their MSS., relating chiefly to the history of the country, is the Codex Argenteus, containing the Gothic Gospels of Ulfilas. The collection also in-

cludes the De la Gardie archives, acquired in 1848.

The National Library of Spain, numbering 460,000 volumes, is contained in a spacious edifice in Madrid. It was formerly known as the Biblioteca Real, or the King's Library. There are more than 30,000 MSS., including many of great historical value, and among their bibliographical rarities they have numerous literary treasures, such as the Columbus letter, considering its size, by far the most precious printed book known, and worth its weight in diamonds! The library possesses a particularly rich collection of prints, numbering nearly 150,000. It enjoys the copyright privilege for all books published in Spain. The library of the Escurial, contained in a dark and gloomy hall, though much smaller, possesses many valuable books, and the same may be said of the University Library of Salamanca. Among the other collections in Spain is the one founded in Seville by the second son of Columbus. It is now carefully conducted, but, as with the other Spanish libraries, it has suffered in the past from neglect, many of its most valuable books

having been stolen and sold. One of these may be seen in the Lenox Library. Portugal possesses but one important library. It is in Lisbon, and contains about 210,000 volumes and MSS., also a cabinet of 40,000 coins and medals, many of great rarity. It is known as the National Library.

The most valuable library in Italy is in the Vatican, but the largest, and known as the National or Brera, is in Florence. It contains about 437,000 volumes; St. Mark's, of Venice, 415,000, and the National Collection of Milan, about 300,000. The Universities of Bologna, Genoa, Naples, Pisa, and Turin, have valuable collections varying in number from one to three hundred thousand books and manuscripts. But all these must yield in interest to the Vatican Library in Rome, which is nearly ten centuries old. In mere numbers it is exceeded by some two score American and European collections, but its 275,000 printed books and 25,000 MSS. include many of the most precious known to the world. Indeed, it may be doubted if the money value of any other library exceeds that of the Vatican—which is the private proper-

ty of the Pope—with the exception of the national collections of France, Great Britain, and Russia. Among its almost priceless treasures may be mentioned the famous Biblical Codex Vaticanus of the fourth century, the Virgil of the same period, the Terence equally ancient, and the palimpsest De Republica of Cicero, conjectured to be of the third century.* The archives are apart from the printed books. As yet, unfortunately, the lack of catalogues impairs its usefulness to scholars, but it is expected that this deficiency will soon be supplied, and that greater privileges will be granted in respect to the use by the public of the treasures of the Bibliotheca Vaticana, which are contained in a magnificent double hall, decorated with frescos depicting ancient libraries

*The largest Bible in the world is in the Vatican. It is a manuscript Bible, and written in Hebrew. The book weighs 320 pounds, and there is a history connected with it. Some Italian Jews obtained a view of the precious volume, and told their co-religionists of Venice of it. The consequence was that a syndicate of Venetian Jews endeavored to purchase it, offering the Pope the weight of the book in gold as the price. Pope Julius II., however, refused the tempting offer. At the present price of gold the proffer was one of about $77,300. This is the largest sum ever known to have been offered for a book.

and councils of the Church. At the end of the great hall an immense gallery, also richly decorated and extending to 1,200 feet, opens out from right to left. Most of the printed books are contained in a series of six chambers known as the *Appartamento Borgia*. The printed books are seen on open shelves, while the MSS. are preserved in closed cases. Permission to use the library is obtained without difficulty by scholars from the Cardinal Secretary of State.

Chief among the ten collections open to the public in Belgium is the Royal Library in Brussels, containing no less than 405,000 books, 30,000 MSS., 50,000 coins and medals, and more than 100,000 engravings, being the gradual accumulation of three centuries. I was shown many magnificent missals, superbly bound for Philip the Good and other Dukes of Burgundy, and an Albert Durer not much larger than an American dollar, worth, I was assured, a thousand times that amount.

The University Library of Ghent was formally opened in 1797 as a city institution, but on the establishment of the University in 1817, the collection was

placed at its disposal. The printed volumes now number 300,000, with 1,600 MSS., and an annual increment of about 2,500 volumes. The University of Louvain possesses over 250,000, and that of Liége about 200,000 volumes, both including large numbers of incunabula and literary treasures, in rare and curious bindings. In the sixteenth century Louvain had as many as six thousand students. The National Library of the Netherlands was established at The Hague in 1798. It possesses 400,000 volumes and more than 4,000 MSS., including many superbly illustrated with miniatures. The library boasts of the richest collection in the world of works on chess, Dutch incunabula, Elzevirs, and Spinozana, which Dr. Campbell, the late learned custodian of its treasures, delighted to display to scholars and experts. Its books are liberally loaned to all parts of the Netherlands.

The Universities of Leyden and Utrecht each possess good libraries, numbering about 200,000 volumes. Switzerland can boast of but two libraries of any importance, those of Geneva, with 125,000, and Zurich, with 130,000

volumes; but it possesses the oldest existing library in Europe—possibly in the world. It is in the Abbey of St. Gall, and claims an antiquity of more than a thousand years!

Almost all the public, and many of the private libraries mentioned in this address, contain specimens of ancient bindings decorated with silver and gold and inlaid with precious stones, cameos, or antique ivories. The national collections of England and France possess large numbers of rich and rare bindings. Among the most ancient known is the St. Cuthbert Gospels and manuscript, to be seen in the British Museum. It is in velvet intermixed with silver, with a broad silver border, enriched with jewels. Another interesting example of ancient binding is in the cathedral of Milan. It is of a date prior to the twelfth century, profusely covered with incrusted enamel, mounted and ornamented with precious stones of various colors. The bindings executed for Grolier, governor of the city just mentioned, and military treasurer for Francis I.—himself a lover of books and bindings—are among the most celebrated in the estimation of

collectors. Of them, the learned De Thou, a later and little less famous French bibliophile, said that: "his books partook of the elegance of their owner." De Quincy ranks a Bible bound by Farrer, in 1635, above the *chefs-d'œuvre* of all British artists. Such was Colbert's care for artistic bookbinding that in a treaty made with the Sultan of Morocco he inserted a stipulation for a certain number of skins annually, to be used by the Bibliothèque Royale. The binding of Farrer, Roger Payne, Padeloup, Derome and many others that might be mentioned, are among the esteemed prizes of public and private libraries. The binding of Macklin's Bible, in four volumes, cost its possessor $325, and that of Boydell's edition of Shakespeare, in nine volumes, $670. An English bibliomaniac had a book bound in human skin, that he might possess an entirely unique binding, and an eccentric Belgian bequeathed during the past year, a portion of his skin to a friend for the purpose of being used in binding a volume of poems written by the donor. A celebrated sportsman known to your speaker, directed that many of his books

should be bound in the skin of deer and fox which he had killed.

Turning for a moment to manuscripts, there may be seen in the Lenox Library a complete unpublished play, dated, and signed Lope de Vega, 1625; letters by the eldest son of Columbus, others written by Samuel Johnson, William Cowper, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott, and Washington's Farewell Address, acquired by Mr. Lenox for the sum of $2,003! Looking at these manuscript remains of illustrious men, read from the same paper, now perhaps yellow and faded, on which the writer's hand rested, we seem to be all but in contact with the great heirs of fame, almost to hear the voices that are forever stilled! There is such a story in every blot; so much of character in every flourish of the pen; such meaning in any word traced or interlined, that such a holograph answers most of the purposes of a personal intimacy; and we should not perhaps wonder at the almost fabulous prices paid for a Shakespeare signature, a few verses from a poet's pen, a patriot martyr's letter, a painter's epistle, or several sheets of

paper containing the original farewell address of George Washington, in the judgment of Wellington one of the noblest and purest characters of modern time—possibly of all time. Perhaps the highest price ever paid for a letter was $5,000. This sum was given for a letter addressed to General Washington by Thomas Lynch, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, being the only one known to collectors.*

The number of printed volumes which have appeared during the four and a half centuries since the art of printing by movable type was invented,—"printing, which Rivarol so judiciously called the artillery of thought, and of which Luther said that it was the last and best gift by which God advances the things of the Gospel,"—I venture to estimate, based on the data of Peignot's "Manuel du Bibliophile" (Paris, 1823), and from correspondence with several of the highest literary authorities, is under 20,000,000, so that the excess over that number contained in the following table of Amer-

* Autograph letters of celebrities and other manuscripts, are likely to increase henceforth in value owing to the rapid increase in the use of type-writers.

ican and European libraries, in June, 1894,* are duplicates. There is no trustworthy data on the subject, but it is probable that the number of unpublished and unprinted books produced during the same period is greatly in excess of the above number, which have come from the press; representing a tremendous waste of human effort and energy melancholy to contemplate in view of the fact that there is not, according to Leslie Stephen, "one author in a thousand who can make his voice audible at the distance of a generation:" †

	VOLS.	MSS.
United States	38,000,000	5,400
Germany	12,500,000	147,000
Great Britain	8,000,000	317,600
France	7,500,000	140,000
Italy	4,600,500	156,663
Austria and Hungary	4,500,000	120,875
Russia	3,000,000	33,275
Belgium	1,300,000	34,000
Spain	1,200,000	20,000
Switzerland	1,000,000	17,950
Sweden and Norway	1,000,000	23,470

* As far as it was possible to do so by correspondence, the statistics introduced were obtained up to the present year, and in many instances to the present month.

† Address on "The Duties of Authors," to the London Ethical Society, February 25, 1894.

	VOLS.	MSS.
Denmark	1,000,000	22,150
Holland	700,000	10,000
British Colonies	689,000	3,000
Portugal	600,000	10,715
Mexico and South America,	595,000	3,450
Greece	200,000	1,000
	86,384,500	1,066,148

If to the above are added maps, charts, pamphlets, and engravings, it will easily make a total of not less than 150,000,000 of books, manuscripts, maps, charts, engravings, and pamphlets contained in the libraries of Europe and the United States at the present time, exclusive of about 2,000,000 in the British Colonies, Mexico, and South America, and in China, India, and Japan.

LIBRARY.	CITY.	VOLUMES.
Bibliothèque Nationale	Paris	2,600,000
British Museum	London	1,650,000
Imperial Library	St. Petersburg	1,200,000
Royal Public	Berlin	850,000
Library of Congress	Washington	680,000
Strasburg University	Strasburg	645,000
Public Library	Boston	597,152
Imperial Library	Vienna	570,000
Royal Library	Munich	540,000
Bodleian Library	Oxford	530,000
Leipsic University	Leipsic	504,000
Royal Library	Copenhagen	500,000
Stuttgard University	Stuttgard	500,000

LIBRARY.	CITY.	VOLUMES.
Buda-Pesth Library	Buda-Pesth	463,000
Cambridge University	Cambridge	450,000
Biblioteca Nacional	Madrid	450,000
Göttingen University	Göttingen	450,000
National Central	Florence	437,000
Vienna University	Vienna	418,000
St. Mark's National	Venice	415,000
Public Library	Hamburg	410,000
Royal Library	Brussels	405,000
Royal Library	Dresden	400,000
National Library	The Hague	400,000
Heidelberg University	Heidelberg	400,000
Harvard University	Cambridge	400,000
Chicago University	Chicago	380,000
Munich University	Munich	372,500
Public Museum	Moscow	350,850
Advocates' Library	Edinburgh	325,000
Royal Sweden	Stockholm	316,000
Royal Public	Dresden	312,500
Christiania University	Christiania	312,000
Copenhagen University	Copenhagen	306,000
Brunswick Ducal	Wölfenbuttel	305,000

These thirty-five American and European libraries are divided as follows:

Germany	12	5,639,000
Great Britain	4	2,955,000
France	1	2,600,000
United States	4	2,057,152
Russia	2	1,550,850
Austria and Hungary	3	1,451,000
Italy	2	852,000
Denmark	2	806,000
Belgium and Holland	2	805,000
Sweden and Norway	2	628,000
Spain	1	450,000

showing an average of between 566,000 and 567,000 volumes in each of the thirty-five largest libraries of the world, containing more than 300,000 volumes. If we take the 180 libraries containing 100,000 and upward, giving a total of 44,500,000, it would show an average of upward of 241,000 each.

Within the past half-century sixty Americans have given sums varying from $30,000 to $3,000,000 to aid or to establish public libraries. The most important of these gifts, amounting to $16,475,000, were made by eleven persons, as follows:

John Crerar, of Illinois	$2,250,000
Walter L. Newberry, of Illinois	2,000,000
The Astor Family, of New York	2,000,000
James Lenox, of New York	2,000,000
Samuel J. Tilden, of New York	2,000,000
Dr. James Rush, of Pennsylvania	1,500,000
George Peabody, of Massachusetts	1,400,000
Enoch Pratt, of Maryland	1,225,000
Andrew Carnegie, of Pennsylvania	1,100,000
Mortimer T. Reynolds, of New York	500,000
Henry Hall, of Minnesota	500,000

The State of New York received $6,500,000; Illinois, $4,250,000; Maryland, $2,625,000, for Peabody's gift was

made to Baltimore; Pennsylvania, $2,600,000; and Minnesota, $500,000.

Massachusetts has more books in her public libraries, in proportion to her population, than any other community on the globe, the number for every thousand of her inhabitants being 1,233 volumes. The Boston Public Library possesses the largest annual income of any similar institution in the world, amounting to about $170,000. Ranking next is the Public Library of Chicago, with $125,000 per annum. The buildings for these two libraries, now nearly completed, will be second only to the Library of Congress.

While in Moscow I saw the most valuable book in the world. It was presented to the Patriarch of the Greek Church, and is preserved in the Kremlin Cathedral, in which the emperors of Russia have been crowned for centuries. It is a large folio Bible, printed in the Russian language, bound in solid silver, and inlaid with diamonds, pearls, and other precious stones! It weighs some seventy pounds, and cost the mother of Peter the Great, who presented it to the church, more than

$100,000. As a special favor I was, by request of an official of the Czar's household, permitted to handle it. But more precious, in my estimation, is a Missal elegantly printed by hand on vellum, richly gilt and decorated, also blazing with gold and precious jewelry, to be seen in the library of the King of Spain. On what was once a blank leaf of this beautifully illuminated prayer-book is the following inscription in letters of gold: *Ferdinandus et Elizabet piissimi Reges sacrum hunc librum Indic. gazar primitiis ornavunt*—" Ferdinand and Isabella, those most devout sovereigns, adorned this sacred book with the first-fruit of the Indies." The Missal was made for their grandson, the Emperor Charles V., and the gold with which it is partly bound and ornamented was the first brought from the New World by Columbus, who was also among the first persons to whom the book was shown by his faithful friend, the good and gracious Queen Isabella.

In 1892, there was added to the many precious literary treasures of the Lenox Library, a unique copy of the letter in Spanish written by Columbus, announc-

ing to King Ferdinand and his wife Isabella, the discovery of "that famous land." As this small folio consists of but two leaves of four printed pages, containing only about 2,500 words, it is, in proportion to its size, the most expensive brochure in the world, having cost $7,500, or three dollars per word! This sum is more than the price of the first folio Shakespeare of 1623, and also more than the value per volume of the equally large Mazarin or Gutenberg Bible, of which there are fine examples to be seen in the Lenox Library. Some rare books are said to be worth their weight in gold, but this Columbus letter is worth many times its weight in the purest diamonds! Several editions of the letter in Latin may also be seen in the Lenox Library,* but there are only two copies in the original Spanish known to have survived the four centuries that have elapsed since the brochure was printed in Barcelona, in 1493. The other is a small quarto of

*In the annual illustrated Report for 1893, Wilberforce Eames, the Librarian, gives the number of volumes and pamphlets on the shelves on the last day of the year as 113,739. This includes more than 700 volumes of manuscripts and 30,408 pamphlets.

eight pages, and is included among the many literary gems of the Ambrosian Library of Milan.

A superb folio copy of the Koran, some six centuries old, was shown to me in the principal mosque of Algiers. It had an interesting history, having belonged to some of the descendants of Mahomet, and was valued at $20,000. Thousands of editions have appeared of the Koran, and thousands of commentaries on the Moslem's Bible, for which every Moslem entertains the most unbounded reverence. To the late Grand Shereff of Morocco, a descendant of Mahomet, I am indebted for calling my attention to this famous manuscript copy of the Koran.

While a cadet at the United States Military Academy, Edgar Allan Poe, whom Emerson a quarter of a century later called "the Jingle-man," published "Tamerlane and other Poems." This insignificant brochure of twenty-seven pages innocent of covering was issued at twenty-five cents, nearly half of the small edition being purchased by his class-mates. But two copies are known to be extant. One, discovered by a

dealer during the present year in the hands of a person who purchased it sixty years ago for ten cents, is now offered at the price of $1,625. The other copy was sold two years ago for $1,850, probably the highest price ever paid for a printed book of its size, with the single exception of the small folio Spanish edition of the Columbus letter. Within three months such absurd prices have been given for first editions as $495 for Thackeray's "Flore et Zephyr;" $370 for an uncut copy of Gray's "Elegy," published in 1754, at sixpence; $270 for the original edition of "The Vicar of Wakefield;" $200 for "The Waltz, by Horace Hornem," a Byronic rarity, and $130 for the first edition of Wordsworth's "Descriptive Sketches in Verse." The craze for original editions of ancient and modern authors would surely seem to have reached its climax.*

* The following interesting list was prepared in May, 1894, by Henri Buagneaux, of Paris, an authority on the subject, giving the actual and estimated value of some of the most precious books known to bibliophiles:

"The Mainz Book of Psalms." Louis XVIII. bought a copy for 12,000 francs, and presented it to the National Library in Paris. Quaritch, of London, owns a copy of the second edition, 1459. His price is $25,000.

"Boccaccio," edition of Venice, 1471, printed by Valdar-

In the Astor Library may be seen a good example of Wycliffe's English Testament, containing the autograph of "Good Duke Humphrey," which is more than five centuries old. It is one of the only eight copies known to be

fer. The Marquis of Blandford sold in 1820 a copy of the same edition for $5,460.

"Les Figures de Molière," by Boucher. It was sold at the auction of the Library of Baron Pichon for about $5,400.

Boccaccio, 1476, "On the Downfall of Noble Men," printed by Colard Mansion, of Bruges. It was purchased at the Techener auction in 1886 by the Duke D'Aumale for $4,000.

"L'Offici de la Toussaint." It was sold at the Laccarelle auction for $4,500. The same copy had been purchased by a certain M. Pichon in 1847 for $9.

Boccaccio, "Decameron," first edition of 1471. It was sold in 1812 to the Duke of Marlborough for $11,300.

A Rabelais. Printed by Etienne Dolet. This brought $2,800 at the second Techener auction in 1887.

"Monument du Costume," by Freudeberg and Moreau, was sold for $4,524 at the Béhaque auction in 1880.

Ovid's "Metamorphosis," with illustrations by Moreau and Boucher, went for $2,600 at the Marquis sale in 1890.

"Entrée de Henri II., Paris et de Charles IX.," two volumes, with the coat-of-arms of De Thou, was sold at Destailleur's auction in 1891 for $4,040.

"La Chasse Royale du Charles IX.," printed in Paris in 1625, went for $2,530 at the Béhaque auction.

"Daphnis and Chloe," edition of 1718, with illustrations, brought $3,400 at the auction of Quantin-Boucher.

"Polyphils Traum," edition of 1499, with a sixteenth century binding, was purchased by Lord Gosford in 1822 for $2,960.

extant, and cost $5,000. Of the author of this interesting literary treasure, quaint and worthy old Fuller wrote: "Upward of forty years after Wycliffe's death, in consequence of a decree of the Council of Constance, his bones

"Les Quatre Dernières Choses," Bruges, 1474, was purchased by Quaritch, London, for $2,500.

A Virgil on vellum paper, Rome, 1470, was bought for $5,000 by Quaritch.

Homer, Aldine Edition, 1504, was sold to the same buyer for $3,300.

"Orlando Furioso," first edition, Ferrara, 1516, was purchased by Quaritch for $2,500.

Aulus Gellius, first edition, 1469, on vellum paper. It was purchased by the Duke D'Aumale from Sunderland in 1882. [This volume, printed by Sweynheim and Paunartz, is believed to be the first that contains a Preface.—J. G. W.]

Monstrellet, edition of 1500, on vellum paper, brought $5,600 at the Techener auction of 1887. [Another copy bound by Lortic brought $6,400.—J. G. W.]

"St. Alban's Book," 1486. Owned by Quaritch, London, and is valued at $3,700.

"Liber Historiarum Romanarum," Venice, 1470, folio edition, $4,000. It is owned by Quaritch.

Shakespeare, original edition of 1623 is held by Quaritch at $6,000. [Baroness Coutts gave $8,000 for her beautiful Daniels copy.—J. G. W.]

"The Bible of Thirty-six Lines," printed by Gutenberg, in Strasburg, three volumes, second edition, 1459, is owned by Quaritch and valued at $15,000.

Recently there were several important auctions at the Hotel Drouot, Paris, at which rare books were sold for high prices. For instance, an "Office de la Semaine Sainte" brought $6,000. This particular copy bears the

were disinterred and burnt, and the ashes thrown into a brook. This brook hath conveyed its ashes into Avon, Avon into Severn, Severn into the nar-

coat-of-arms of Louis XVI., who presented it to the Princess de Lambelle. For the last thirty years it was owned by Count L'Hommedieu du Tranchant de Lignerolles, who was one of the best-known collectors in France. More recently there was sold in London, a Prayer Book of 1544, impressed on vellum, which had belonged to Henry VIII. and was given by him to his daughter Mary. It contained an inscription in the king's handwriting: "Myne own good doughter." It had passed from Mary to her mother as a gift, and Mary had written, "Your moste humble Doughter and Seruant Marye." This Prayer Book was sold for $3,200. One curious waif was the first volume of a little Latin Bible of the early part of the fourteenth century, wonderful for its beauty of execution. Bibliopoles were well aware that the second volume was in the Bibliothèque Nationale, and that both volumes had once belonged to Philip the Fair. It brought $3,050, and it seems probable that the first volume will find a place now by the side of the one in the Bibliothèque Nationale. There was a beautiful "Book of Hours," made at the beginning of the fourteenth century by an English scribe, full of wonderful illustrations. William Morris, the well-known poet, secured it for $2,050. For Alcuin's Manuscript Bible, made for Charlemagne, the British Museum paid $3,700, and an enthusiast said he would willingly give double that sum for the glorious Bible of Charles the Bold, in the Bibliothèque Nationale. The Commission of Captain Nathan Hale was purchased at an auction sale in Philadelphia for $1,775 (the buyer should have bid an additional dollar and made it $1,776), and at the same time one of the patriot martyr's letters was sold for $1,125, being one-third more than an unpublished epistle of Raphael's brought, in Berlin, last month.

row seas, they into the main ocean; and thus the ashes of Wycliffe are the emblem of his doctrine, which is now dispersed all the world over."

The treasures of private libraries at home and abroad, such as the Carter-Brown Collection of Americana, the Barton Shakespeariana, sold to the Boston Public Library, and the historian Bancroft's books acquired by the Lenox Library; those of the Duke d'Aumale, at Chantilly, Earl Spencer, at Althorp, the Lucys, at Charlcote, Baron Rothschild, the Duke of Devonshire, Earl Derby, at Knowsley, Lord Tollemache, at Helmingham, and Sir Walter Scott's, at Abbotsford, almost rival the public collections, and in some particulars surpass them, as in cases where persons devote themselves to collecting the various editions of a single writer, or some specialty such as the biographies of an illustrious man. Boulard spent a small fortune in pursuit of all known editions of Racine; a university professor of distinction devoted himself to collecting obscene books; an eccentric bibliomaniac purchased, at exorbitant prices, all astronomical books that he

could find, although he did not understand a word of that science, and another collector bought at great cost thousands of dramatic pieces in different languages, none of which he could read. A Parisian has gathered together nearly a thousand volumes of the smallest books in the world, not one of them larger than a single inch in width and two in length;* while another Frenchman exhibits upward of two thousand volumes relating to Napoleon. An English admirer of Goldsmith has succeeded in acquiring almost every known edition of the "Vicar of Wakefield," among the half dozen most popular of all English books. An American has collected more than four hundred lives of Washington, Lincoln, and Grant; another nearly five hundred volumes of Don Quixote. About the same number of editions, also in various languages, of Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress and Burns's Poems, are shown by an English and Scotch collec-

* One of this curious collection consists of selected passages from the Bible, printed in German and bearing the date of 1759. It is one inch wide by one and a half inches high. Another example, confidently believed to be the smallest work extant, is a quarto edition of the sacred book of the Sikhs, of India, less than an inch square.

tor; while Dr. Copinger, of London, collected upward of five hundred Latin bibles, recently acquired for the General Theological Seminary, by Dean Hoffman and Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt. But the book that is believed to surpass all others except the Bible, in the number of varying editions and languages, since its first appearance in 1472, is "The Imitation of Christ," by Thomas à Kempis. A facsimile of this small quarto was published in London a few months ago,* of which it is asserted that not less than five thousand editions have appeared. Of these an enthusiastic German has devoted nearly half a century to collecting more than two-thirds of that number, including thirty-nine editions in the original Latin, and no

* An English correspondent writing in April, 1894, referring to this facsimile, remarks: "A review of this edition of 'The Imitation of Christ,' was recently sent by an English press clipping bureau to 'Mr. Thomas à Kempis,' in care of the publishers of the book, with a statement that all references to his work would be promptly sent to him on receipt of a guinea." The same friend informs me that England spends annually about $700,000,000 for drink, and $30,000,000 for books, illustrating the difference between drinking and thinking in what Shakespeare describes as

"That precious stone set in the silver sea."

less than sixty-seven translations into modern languages.*

The preposterous prices paid for rare books and bindings, as well as manuscripts, are, however, frequently surpassed by the eccentric collectors of paintings, postage-stamps, flowers, furniture, ceramics, and other articles that might be designated as bric-à-brac. Within a few months $55,000 has been exchanged for a Sir Joshua Reynolds, said to be the largest sum ever paid in England for a picture sold at public auction; $30,000 given for a rare piece of china; $20,000 for a French table from Fontainebleau; $3,000 for a snuff-box; $1,000 for a rare orchid [another one belonging to Baron Schroeder is valued at $5,000]; while nearly the same sum was recently paid for a five-cent Confederate postage stamp. Philip von Ferrary's unique collection of stamps is claimed to be worth half a million of dol-

* Thomas à Kempis, or Thomas Hamerken — for we do not even know his name with certainty—was born in the diocese of Cologne about 1380, and died in 1471. His reputation is founded on the well-known work of which it is not certain that he is the author. After scores of volumes have been written on each side, the question is still unsettled. The city of Amsterdam is about to erect a handsome monument to his memory.

lars, the estimated cost of the most valuable private library in the United States.

There was a pregnant inquiry made by Carlyle, concerning Great Britain, that is perhaps equally pertinent to other portions of the Old World as well as the New. He asked: "How is it there is not a library in every town? You will find everywhere the police, a prison, and gallows! Why have we not a library?"

In conclusion, I will recall to your recollection, that over the doors of the famous Egyptian Library of Osymandyas—the king who gave his name, as you may remember, to Shelley's sonnet—were inscribed the Greek words ψυχῆς ἰατρεῖον, which mean "the sanatorium of the soul." Of this sanatorium, which is a precious catacomb wherein are embalmed and preserved imperishably the great minds of the departed dead who never die, Wordsworth very beautifully says:

> "Books are yours
> Within whose silent chambers treasure lies
> Preserved from age to age; more precious far
> Than that accumulated store of gold
> And Orient gems which, for a day of need,
> The Sultan hides deep in ancestral tombs.
> These hoards of truth you can unlock at will."

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